Illegal Madrassas in Border Areas in Rajasthan

†1448. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received information regarding the setting up of illegal Madrassas in the border areas in Rajasthan, along the Pakistan border; if so, the action proposed to be taken; and

(b) the number of citizens who came into the country through Visa passport and did not return back/are untraceable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. As per available information some madrassas have been constructed on the border areas either on Government or private land without prior permission of the concerned authorities as per the law. The State Government has initiated action in such cases and the matter is sub judice.

(b) As on 30th June, 1999, a total of 45,524 foreign nationals were over-staying in the country after expiry of their passport/visa.

Indo-Pak meeting to stop unprovoked firing

†1449. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held between India and Pakistan recently to stop unprovoked firing on border, particularly not to resort to firing on civil areas;

(b) if so, whether any understanding between the two countries in this regard was reached in this meeting; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Bi-annual meeting between BSF and Pakistani Rangers was held at Lahore from 18th to 21st Nov. '99 in which points regarding unprovoked firing especially on innocent civilians was discussed. During the meeting both sides agreed to instruct their troops not to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.